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PETERBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1959




To which is added
The Annual Report of the
SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health Dr. D. McKnight, M.B., B.S., DCH., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector M. R. Gibbs, A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.



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Council Offices,
Broad Street,
Stamford,
Lincs.

Tel. No. Stamford 2086.

November, 1960.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Peterborough Rural District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical officer of Health for the year 1959.

The general health of the District was good throughout the year.

There was a live birth rate of 18.9. which is above the average figure for the country of 16.5. per thousand.

Regrettably, there were 2 still-births and 7 infant deaths in the area, bringing the infant mortality rate per thousand births to 47. Of these 7 deaths one occurred in a caravan home, the cause of death being pneumonia. The other six occurred in maternity hospitals, from natural causes very soon after birth. Fortunately there were no maternal deaths.

The death rate per thousand population was 8.3 compared with the national figure of 11.6.

50 cases of measles were notified during the year and there was one consequent death. 2 cases of whooping cough and 1 case of acute poliomyelitis were notified. There was one case of tuberculosis, but no death from this disease.

The condition of the Car Dyke in Eye gave cause for concern. The seepages of sewage into the Dyke from Septic tanks of nearby houses, coupled with an extremely dry summer, and the choking of the Dyke with weeds, resulted in a severe public health hazard. By the end of the year all but one house had been connected to the main sewers. The Dyke was rodded by The Welland River Board in the Autumn, but its condition cannot yet be considered satisfactory.

I am, Gentelmen,
Your obedient Servant,

DIANA McKNIGHT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	28,186 acres
Population estimated mid 1959	7,860
Number of inhabited houses from Rate Book	2,555
Rateable Value	£66,017
Sum Represented by Penny Rate	£242. 8. 9.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births</u>	Males 82
	Females 67
	Total 149
<u>Live Birth Rate per 1,000</u> <u>Population</u>	18.9
<u>Still-births</u>	2
<u>Still-births rate per 1,000</u> <u>live and still-births</u>	13.2
<u>Infant Deaths</u>	7
<u>Infant mortality rate per</u> <u>1,000 live births; total</u>	47.0
<u>Infant mortality rate per</u> <u>1,000 live births; legitimate</u>	47.0
<u>Infant mortality rate per</u> <u>1,000 live births; illegitimate</u>	0.0
<u>Neo-natal mortality rate</u>	40.2
<u>Early Neo-natal mortality rate</u>	40.2
<u>Perinatal mortality rate</u>	53.0
<u>Illegitimate live births per</u> <u>cent of total live births</u>	6.7
<u>Maternal Deaths</u>	0
<u>Maternal mortality rate per</u> <u>1,000 live and still-births</u>	0.0
<u>Death Rate per 1,000</u> <u>population</u>	8.3

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.

INJURIES AND CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis,	-	-
Measles	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of stomach.	2	3
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	2	4
Leukaemia and Alekaemia.	1	-
Diabetes.	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	5
Coronary diseases, angina	8	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
Other heart disease.	5	3
Other circulatory diseases	2	2
Influenza.	-	-
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Other diseases respiratory system	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	-
Other defined and illdefined diseases	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-
All other accidents.	2	-
Suicide.	-	-
Homicide & operations of war	-	-
	<u>38</u>	<u>28</u>

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Polimyelitis
Measles
Whooping Cough
Total =

Not known	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	Total
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	4	5	7	7	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	-	4	1	7	7	24	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53

TUBERCULOSIS

	Deaths during 1959				New cases during 1959			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
15 - 25 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total =	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

New cases notified during 1956 = 2
" " " " 1957 = 1
" " " " 1958 = 3
" " " " 1959 = 1

FACTORY ACT.

1. Inspection for purposes of provision as to health
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register.	Inspect- ions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	26	12	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	35	17	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as, two three or more "cases".

Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	-	-	-	-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
NUMBER KILLED (if known)	171	-	-	411	208	-
Number inspected	171	-	-	411	208	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis & cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	26	NIL	NIL	1	3	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15%	NIL	NIL	NIL	1.4%	NIL
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	NIL	NIL	NIL	12	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.6%	NIL	NIL	NIL	5.7%	NIL
<u>Cysticercus only</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Generalised & totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Number of Food Premises in the Area by type of business.

General Stores	33
Butchers	4
Fish Shops	2
Confectioners	1
Canteens	9

Number of Food Premises by type under Section 16 of the
Food & Drugs Act, 1955

Fish Frying	2
Ice Cream	25
Preserved Meats	4

Number of Dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies
Regulations 1949-1954

1

Number of inspections of registered food premises - 35.

The majority of food shops in the district are small general stores with living accommodation attached. A good standard of cleanliness and hygiene is maintained at the majority of these.

During the year, a survey was made of the licensed houses in the district and the Brewers written to regarding defects found. The majority of Brewers have replied stating that they have put the necessary work in hand.

It was not found necessary to carry out any special examination of a stock or consignment of food.

Nearly all ice cream sold in the district is pre-packed and all is sold from standard type refrigerators.

Details of Water supplies to houses in the respective Villages as estimated by the Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

PARISH	Total No. of Houses	(a) Supplied direct to house	Population represented thereby	(b) To stand- pipes	Population represented thereby	From Wells
AILSWORTH	89	38	115	45	168	3
BOROUGH FEN	89	47	168	35	122	7
CASTOR	222	162	531	51	181	6
DEEPING GATE	94	63	206	31	109	-
ETTON	56	32	103	19	66	7
EYE	720	607	2069	109	393	4
GLINTON	308	265	778	37	132	6
HELPS TON	243	164	541	73	256	6
MARHOLM	67	39	138	28	98	-
MAXEY	129	94	308	26	93	1
NEWBOROUGH	260	196	661	61	215	3
NORTHBOROUGH	191	155	439	31	105	5
PEAKIRK	90	50	171	38	136	1
SUTTON	27	10	35	14	59	3
UPTON	28	18	58	10	36	-

PETERBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector, Surveyor and
Water Engineer for the year 1959.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report.

The steady progress mentioned in the opening remarks of last year's report, has been well maintained during 1959, particularly with regard to the provision of main drainage. The Sewerage Scheme for the Parishes of Castor and Ailsworth was completed and connections from house drainage were made at a good rate. The Scheme for Glington, Helpston, Peakirk and Etton, did not make the progress hoped for, chiefly because of bad ground conditions. However, the laying of sewers and erection of pumping stations at Glington was completed during the year and some house connections had been made.

The Scheme for sewerage Deeping Gate got under way towards the end of the year and it is hoped will be substantially completed during 1960.

The water improvement scheme for Eye was completed and this village now enjoys a constant supply with adequate pressures. The scheme to improve the supply to Castor, Ailsworth, Sutton and Upton, was still in the planning stage.

Several small extensions were carried out in polythene tube to supply isolated premises, for which this was the only economical method that could be adopted. There are now only a very few outlying properties without a mains water supply.

The number of applications for Improvement Grants increased considerably during the year, largely as the result of the introduction of the new Standard Grant for the provision of five amenities and as the result of the provision of main drainage.

The Council continued with small building schemes, mainly consisting of two-bedroom bungalows and land was purchased at Eye for the erection of houses, the majority of which are to be provided with garages.

Work on the systematical overhaul and repair of pre-war Council houses was continued and contracts were let for the modernisation of all pre-war houses at Castor, Ailsworth and Glington.

The cesspool emptying service continued to operate smoothly and was employed practically full-time throughout the year.

The Council declared one Clearance Area in the Parish of Eye, affecting four houses and also dealt with a number of individual unfit houses by way of Closing and Demolition Orders.

Public Health work, such as routine inspections of houses, food premises, shops and factories, was again curtailed owing to pressure of other work, but a survey of the licensed houses in the area was made and brewers asked to carry out necessary improvements.

Public Health Work.

Infectious Diseases.

One house at Eye was disinfected after the removal to hospital of a T.B. patient and enquiries were made into an outbreak of gastro-enteritis at Glington and Helpston.

National Assistance Act 1948 (Section 50).

There were no cases dealt with during the year.

Public Health Act - Complaints.

22 complaints were received during the year. These were all dealt with by informal action.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

There is only one registered dairy in the district and this is used solely for storage purposes. All milk sold in the district is bought in bottles from premises outside the district.

Licences issued during the year :-

2	supplementary	licences	to	retail	sterilised	milk.
3	"	"	"	"	"	tuberculin tested milk.
3	"	"	"	"	"	pasteurised milk.
2	dealers	licences	to	retail	sterilised	milk.
1	"	"	"	"	"	pasteurised milk.

Slaughter-houses.

There are three licensed private slaughter-houses in the district, all serving butchers shops. They have all been well maintained having regard to their age and structural condition and the licences were renewed for a further period of 13 months.

Meat Inspection.

250 visits were made to slaughter-houses and butchers shops and the following carcasses and offal examined :-

Beasts 171. Sheep 411. Pigs 208.

I am pleased to be able to report again that 100% inspection has been maintained.

The following was condemned and disposed of to a firm dealing in waste products :-

21	beasts	livers	-	distomatosis.
5	"	"	-	abscesses.
4	"	lungs	-	T.B.
4	"	heads	-	T.B.
1	"	liver	-	T.B.
1	"	forequarter	-	T.B.
2	pigs	lungs	-	T.B.
2	"	livers	-	peritonitis.
7	"	heads	-	T.B.
3	"	mesenterics	-	T.B.
1	"	kidney	-	retention cysts.
1	sheep's	liver	-	peritonitis.

There was a marked increase in the incidence of bovine livers affected with distomatosis which is more commonly found in Irish cattle.

Food Premises.

The number of food premises on the register is 41.

Number of inspections - 35.

In one case, a shopkeeper was asked to provide hot water and a sink and this was done. A similar request was made to another trader and has not, as yet, been complied with.

Shops Act.

There are 51 shops on the register and 38 inspections were made. No contraventions of the Act were found.

Factories Act.

The number of factories on the register was 35.

Number of inspections made	17.
Informal notices served	Nil.
Prosecutions	Nil.

Unsound Food.

I was not asked to deal with any unsound food, other than meat, during the year.

Rodent Control.

Inspections made (estimated numbers).

At private dwellings	312.
At business premises	38.
At agricultural premises	15.
At Council property	4.

The majority of inspections were carried out at the time of inspections for other purposes. Only a few complaints were received and most people carried out their own disinfection work rather than pay the Council for the service.

Treatments carried out :-

Refuse Tips 2. Council properties 2. Schools 1.
Business premises 3.

Housing.

Private Building.

A total of 41 dwellings was completed during the year, a decrease of 3 compared with 1958. They were distributed in the following Parishes:

Ailsworth 8. Castor 1. Deeping Gate 3. Eye 4. Glington 8.
Helpston 1. Marholm 1. Maxey 3. Newborough 3. Northborough 9.

This brings the total number of houses erected by private enterprise since 1946, to 311.

There were 37 dwellings in the course of erection at the end of the year and these were distributed as follows :-

Ailsworth 10. Castor 2. Eye 7. Glington 2. Helpston 2.
Marholm 3. Maxey 1. Newborough 3. Northborough 7.

Improvement Grants.

(a) Discretionary Grants.

A total of 22 applications for improving 24 properties was approved during the year. This shows a 100% increase on the applications received during 1958. The total amount of grants approved was £5,840 (an average of £243 per dwelling).

8 grants were for tenanted properties and 14 for owner-occupiers. Work was completed at 11 of them during the year and was in progress at all others. One application was withdrawn.

(b) Standard Grants.

24 applications were received and approved under the provisions of the new House Purchase and Housing Act 1949. The following amenities are to be provided.

Baths 11. Washbasins 11. Hot-water systems 14. Larders 6.
W.C.'s. 23.

Work was completed at 6 properties and had been commenced at 3 others.

4 applications were for tenanted properties and 20 from owner-occupiers.

The houses concerned were distributed in the following Parishes :-

Ailsworth 4. Castor 1. Etton 1. Eye 1. Glington 12.
Helpston 4. Peakirk 1.

Council Houses.

(a) Building.

The following bungalows and houses were completed during the year :-

Etton (2 bungalows and 2 houses), Castor (8 bungalows).

Helpston (6 bungalows) and Maxey (4 bungalows).

In course of erection at the end of the year were 8 houses at Eye, 2 houses at Castor and 4 houses at Deeping Gate. Contracts have also been let for 4 houses at Borough Fen and 6 houses and 4 bungalows at Newborough. The building programme for 1960 also includes 2 bungalows at Peakirk and a further 20 houses, 16 of which are to be provided with garages, at Crowland Road, Eye.

(b) Improvements.

Contracts were let for the provision of W.C.s and washbasins in all pre-war houses at Ailsworth, Castor and Glington.

The Council also decided to instal washbasins in pre-war houses lacking this amenity, in the Parish of Eye.

The work of providing bathrooms to the eight - 1919 houses in Back Lane, Eye, was almost completed by the end of the year.

It was also decided to replace the existing gravel paths to pre-war houses with concrete paths, over a period of years.

Paving slabs were laid to all paths for old peoples bungalows.

(c) Maintenance.

External painting of 82 houses (Eye 60. Newborough & Borough Fen 22) was carried out; also preservation to the 20 Swedish Timber houses at Eye. A treatment by a specialist firm was carried out at all pre-war houses affected with woodworm.

The systematic inspection of pre-war Council houses in connection with repairs and maintenance was completed for the Parishes of Ailsworth, Borough Fen, Castor, Newborough and at 24 houses in Eye.

Slum Clearance.

A site containing 4 houses at Crowland Road, Eye, was declared a Clearance Area and the order was confirmed by the Minister.

11 Demolition Orders were made and 6 houses demolished.

4 houses were made the subject of Closing Orders and two more were represented towards the end of the year.

Rent Act 1957.

2 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and granted and the owners gave undertakings to carry out the work in both cases.

Plans under the Building Byelaws.

181 plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws, an increase of 77 over the number received in 1958. This reflects the steady growth of the district and an increase in modernisation and improvement of the older type houses.

Public Cleansing.

(a) Cesspool Emptying.

The Scheme continued to run smoothly during the year and I consider this is a worth-while service, which is greatly appreciated by the ratepayers. The vehicle is also useful for flushing out sewers.

Tipping now takes place in the sewers at Castor, Eye and Glington and occasionally on agricultural land.

The number of tanks emptied during the year, was 609, as follows :-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Private Houses.</u>	<u>Council Houses.</u>
Ailsworth	2	-
Borough Fen	-	14
Castor	32	-
Deeping Gate	20	-
Etton	8	8
Eye	51	-
Glington	81	20
Helpston	42	47
Marholm	20	35
Maxey	16	26
Newborough	31	19
Northborough	63	40
Peakirk	7	8
Sutton	5	-
Upton	2	6
Other Districts.	6	-
	<u>386</u>	<u>223</u>

(b) Night Soil Collection.

This work is carried out by contract and only one complaint of non-collection was received during the year.

Following the completion of the Sewerage Scheme for Castor and Ailsworth, the Council decided to terminate the collection of night soil in these two Parishes on March 31st. 1960.

(c) Refuse Collection.

The collection of house refuse is carried out fortnightly by contract from all but isolated houses and very few complaints about the service were received during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage Disposal.

The Sewerage Scheme for Castor and Ailsworth, was completed during the year. 70 properties at Ailsworth have been connected up and there are only 8 remaining to be dealt with.

In Castor, 161 properties have been connected and there remain 25 to be dealt with.

6 properties at Ailsworth have had pail closets converted to W.C.'s. and 28 in the village of Castor.

The Scheme for Glington, Helpston, Etton and Peakirk proceeded during the year and the main sewers were completed at Glington; also the pumping stations at North Fen Road, Glington and St. Pegas Road, Peakirk. The housing estate at Welmore Road was connected up and a few private houses, but house connections were held up owing to slow progress on the laying of branch connections from the sewers to boundary properties.

Progress was also slow in Helpston, owing to rock being encountered and along the Glington Road, because of unstable ground conditions.

A start was made on the scheme for Deeping Gate towards the end of the year and this work should be completed during 1960.

Water Supply.

The most important improvement carried out during the year, was the laying of a 6" main from near the Dogsthorpe Railway Crossing to a point near the Hodney Road Railway Bridge to improve the supply at Eye. Pressures were considerably improved and Eye now enjoys a satisfactory water supply.

Polythene services were laid to supply 4 houses at Woodcroft Road, Etton; 3 houses at Waterworks Lane, Glington; 2 at Mill Road, Maxey; 1 at Middle Road and 1 at St. Martins Road, Newborough.

The question of improving supplies to Castor, Ailsworth, Sutton and Upton is being discussed between the Consulting Engineers and the Ministry's Engineer.

65 new connections were made to water mains during the year, as follows :-

To new houses and bungalows	55
To existing houses	16
To caravans	1
To R.D.C. Depot, Eye	1
By meter to business premises	1
" " " nurseries	3
" " " fields & crew yards	5
" " " schools	1
" " " houses & crew-yards combined	2

This is an increase of 28 over the number of connections made in 1958.

The total quantity of water purchased in bulk from the City of Peterborough was 97,233,000 gallons, an increase of some 20,000,000 over that purchased in 1958. This large increase is accounted for by three main factors :-

- (1) A large number of burst mains occurring mostly in the Newborough and Borough Fen areas, due to soil shrinkage after the long dry summer and in connection with Sewerage Schemes.
- (2) The increase in consumption for watering of gardens and crops, again because of the abnormally hot dry summer.
- (3) Provision of hot water systems and W.C.'s following Sewerage Schemes and an increase in the building of private houses.

Petroleum Act.

49 licences were issued during the year to store petroleum spirit for private use and sale and the fees collected amounted to £33. 5. 0.

I should again like to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the staff and workmen for their continued loyalty and efficiency.

I am,
Sir and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M.R. GIBBS.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

February 1960.